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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER	
ZHOU, TING	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2173	

DATE MAILED: 03/30/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/935,137	WINDL ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Ting Zhou	2173	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *17 January 2006*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-3,5-7,9,11-21,23 and 24* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-3, 5-7, 9, 11-21, 23 and 24* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. The Request for Continued Examination (RCE) filed on 17 January 2006 under 37 CFR 1.53(d) based on parent Application No. 09/935,137 is acceptable and a RCE has been established. An action on the RCE follows.

2. The amendments filed on 17 January 2006, submitted with the filing of the RCE have been received and entered. The applicant has cancelled claim 4. Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9, 11-21, 23 and 24 as amended are pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9, 13, 17-18, 21 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oran et al. U.S. Patent 5,617,526 (hereinafter "Oran") and Wilson U.S. Patent 6,002,398.

Referring to claims 1, 13 and 17, Oran teaches a system and method comprising a primary display region including a window area for displaying information (the operating system desktop, which is a window area capable of displaying information) (Oran: column 3, lines 26-29 and shown in Figure2), a peripheral display region (taskbar notification area) (Oran: column 3, lines 26-47 and Figure 2); means for determining an

event which upon occurrence of the event, temporarily superimposes a message indicator over the peripheral region (a notification displayed as a graphical object in the notification area; for example, when an event occurs such as when an electronic mail message has arrived, an email message indicator icon is temporarily displayed on the taskbar notification area; the email message indicator disappears once the user selects the mail indicator acknowledging the event) (Oran: column 1, lines 34-41, column 4, lines 46-50, column 5, lines 37-45 and Figure 3), the message indicator being displayed when triggered by an automation system message (the email indicator is displayed when triggered by the detected arrival of a new mail message) (Oran: column 1, lines 34-41, column 5, lines 37-45 and Figure 3); and means for navigating a user to the source of the event in the primary display region upon user selection (when users activate, i.e. position the mouse cursor to point at the printer icon on the taskbar notification area, a tool tip message indicating the number of documents currently pending on the printer is displayed) (Oran: column 4, lines 2-10 and Figure 4). However, Oran fails to explicitly teach the peripheral region comprising the display of a plurality of indicator tabs each having an original assigned functionality, means for determining an event which upon occurrence of the event superimposes a message indicator over one of the indicator tabs causing a second functionality of the indicator tab, and means for navigating a user to the source of the event in the primary display region upon selection for a first period of time of the one indicator tab having the second functionality. Wilson teaches a window-based graphical user interface for displaying information (Wilson: column 2, lines 15-25 and Figure 2) similar to that of Oran. In addition, Wilson further teaches the peripheral region comprising a plurality of indicator tabs each having an original assigned

functionality (a plurality of tabs displayed on the interface of Figure 2, such as the tabs "Address", "Group", "Security", etc., each with an original functionality of displaying an related property page) (Wilson: column 2, lines 15-28 and column 5, lines 26-41), means for determining an event which upon occurrence of the event superimposes a message indicator over one of the indicator tabs causing a second functionality of the indicator tab (upon the occurrence of the event that the tab has sub-category field, a message indicator, i.e. an indicator in the form of an upside-down triangle, is displayed on the tab causing the second functionality of displaying the sub-category fields) (Wilson: column 6, line 67-column 7, line 35 and Figures 2-3), and means for navigating a user to the source of the event in the primary display region upon selection for a first period of time of the one indicator tab having the second functionality (upon selection of the indicator tab with the displayed message indicator, i.e. upside-down triangle, the source, i.e. the sub-category fields are displayed on the interface) (Wilson: column 6, line 67-column 7, line 35 and Figures 2-3). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Oran and Wilson before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the interface that temporarily displays message indicators over a peripheral region when triggered by an automation system message of Oran to include the display of message indicators over indicator tabs taught by Wilson, in order to obtain an interface that temporarily displays message indicators over indicator tabs when triggered by an automation system message. One would have been motivated to make such a combination in order to efficiently and flexibly display a large amount of information, thereby saving screen space and providing a simplified user interface that is easier to navigate.

Referring to claim 2, Oran, as modified, teach the peripheral region comprises a top edge, a bottom edge and lateral edges circumscribing an icon for invoking tools for running and debugging application programs (as shown in Figure 6, the taskbar notification area contains, or encloses the icons, which allows users to open application programs such as the electronic mail program to look at the arrived email message) (Oran: column 4, lines 41-50).

Referring to claim 3, Oran, as modified, teach wherein the indicator tabs (Wilson teaches the display of indicator tabs on the interface) (Wilson: column 2, lines 15-28 and column 5, lines 26-41 and Figure 2) are located in a status bar (Oran teaches displaying indicators such as message indicators on the status bar) (Oran: column 4, lines 50-55 and Figure 6).

Referring to claim 5, Oran, as modified, teach wherein the one indicator tab is displayed approximately in the center (Wilson teaches the display of indicator tabs on the interface) (Wilson: column 2, lines 15-28 and column 5, lines 26-41 and Figure 2) of the peripheral region (Oran teaches the display of information in a peripheral region, such as the center of the peripheral region) (Oran: column 4, lines 38-45 and Figure 6).

Referring to claim 6, Oran, as modified, teach wherein the one indicator tab (Wilson teaches the display of indicator tabs on the interface) (Wilson: column 2, lines 15-28 and column 5, lines 26-41 and Figure 2) is located adjacent the bottom edge of the peripheral region (Oran teaches the display of information in a peripheral region) (Oran: column 4, lines 38-45 and Figure 6).

Referring to claim 7, Oran, as modified, teach wherein the one indicator tab, when selected for a second period of time, invokes retrieval of a plurality of messages in a pop-

up window placed within the primary display region (Wilson teaches upon user selection of the indicator tab with the displayed message indicator, i.e. upside-down triangle, the sub-category fields are displayed as menu items in a pop-up menu; Oran teaches a first and second period of time for selection: for example, when the user selects the printer icon for the first period of time by positioning the cursor to point at the printer icon, a single message via the tool tip is displayed, as shown in Figure 4; when the user selects the printer icon for the second period of time by clicking the icon, a plurality of messages, via the plurality of printer related items shown on the print manager window is displayed, as shown in Figure 5) (Wilson: column 6, line 67-column 7, line 35 and Figures 2-3; Oran: column 4, lines 2-38).

Referring to claim 9, Oran, as modified, teach the first period of time is less than the second period of time (it takes users longer to point at the printer icon and select it to invoke a plurality of messages than it does for users to simply point at the printer icon to display the single tool tip icon) (Oran: column 4, lines 2-38 and Figure 5).

Referring to claim 18, Oran, as modified, teach the message indicator is accompanied by an acoustic signal (Oran: column 3, lines 64 – column 4, lines 2).

Referring to claim 21, Oran, as modified, teach clicking on the message indicator (clicking on the taskbar notification icons) (Oran: column 4, lines 2-38).

Referring to claim 24, Oran, as modified, teach entering a response to a message in the pop-up window (Wilson teaches that users can enter a response, such as selection of the displayed sub-categories in the pop-up menu; Oran also teaches, for example, upon viewing the pop-up tool tip printer message, the user can achieve a second level of interactivity with the printer icon by entering a response to the tool tip via selecting the

printer icon and displaying a print manager) (Wilson: column 6, line 67-column 7, line 35; Oran: column 4, lines 2-38).

4. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oran et al. U.S. Patent 5,617,526 (hereinafter "Oran") and Wilson U.S. Patent 6,002,398, as applied to claims 1 and 7 above, and Moon et al. U.S. Patent 6,385,662 (hereinafter "Moon").

Referring to claim 11, Oran and Wilson teach all of the limitations as applied to claims 1 and 7 above. Specifically, Oran and Wilson teach displaying messages in pop-up windows (Oran et al.: column 4, lines 2-10 and Figure 4). However, Oran and Wilson fail to explicitly teach the messages in the pop-up window are associated with respective time tags and in an order based on the time tags. Moon teaches a system for displaying icons and retrieving the corresponding notification upon user selection (Moon: column 3, lines 1-13, column 4, lines 56-63 and further shown in Figure 1) similar to that of Oran and Wilson. In addition, Moon further teaches messages are associated with respective time tags and in an order based on the time tags (events, or messages in the history file that is displayed in response to user selection, are associated with a time of when they were ignored by the user and added to the file, and events are added to the history file in an order of when they become ignored by the user and added to the file) (Moon: column 5, lines 22-47). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Oran, Wilson and Moon before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the user activated message display interface of Oran and Wilson to include associating a time tag with displayed messages taught by Moon. One would have been motivated to make such a combination in order to allow users to put off viewing status

messages until a time more convenient for them, letting users work at their own pace. Furthermore, users will be able to see when events occurred, therefore allowing them to see the interdependent relationships between events, i.e. if certain events caused later occurring events, allowing users to respond to the messages or problems in the appropriate order.

5. Claims 12, 14-16 and 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oran et al. U.S. Patent 5,617,526 (hereinafter "Oran") and Wilson U.S. Patent 6,002,398, as applied to claims 1 and 17 above, and Shimizu et al. U.S. Patent 5,689,416 (hereinafter "Shimizu").

Referring to claim 12, Oran and Wilson teach all of the limitations as applied to claim 1 above. In addition, Oran and Wilson teach the message indicator is accompanied by an audible sound (Oran et al.: column 3, lines 64 – column 4, line 2). However, Oran and Wilson fail to explicitly teach the message indicator comprises a blinking display comprising a color contrasting with the visual characteristics of the surrounding peripheral region. Shimizu teaches the display of indications for monitored system components (Shimizu: column 3, lines 3-31) similar to that of Oran and Wilson. In addition, Shimizu further teaches displaying a blinking display comprising a color contrasting with the visual characteristics of the surrounding peripheral region (displaying a blinking red display indicator to symbolize the disconnection of a device) (Shimizu: column 12, lines 36-44). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art having the teachings of Oran, Wilson and Shimizu before him at the time the invention was made, to modify interface for displaying message indicating icons taught

by Oran and Wilson to include the displaying of a blinking red indicator of Shimizu. One would have been motivated to make such a combination in order to efficiently monitor the statuses of a plurality of system components, allowing the user to be able to clearly see and comprehend when an event or failure has occurred, so they can respond to the problem in a timely fashion.

Referring to claim 14, Oran, as modified, teach wherein upon activation of the message indicator for a second time period, the contents of a message associated with the event are retrieved and the retrieved message contents are displayed in a pop-up window, wherein the pop-up window is placed within the window area of the primary display region (Wilson teaches upon user selection of the indicator tab with the displayed message indicator, i.e. upside-down triangle, the sub-category fields are displayed as menu items in a pop-up menu; Oran teaches a first and second period of time for selection: for example, when the user selects the printer icon for the first period of time by positioning the cursor to point at the printer icon, a single message via the tool tip is displayed, as shown in Figure 4; when the user selects the printer icon for the second period of time by clicking the icon, a plurality of messages, via the plurality of printer related items shown on the print manager window is displayed, as shown in Figure 5) (Wilson: column 6, line 67-column 7, line 35 and Figures 2-3; Oran: column 4, lines 2-38).

Referring to claim 15, Oran, as modified, teach the first period of time is less than the second period of time (it takes users longer to point at the printer icon and select it to invoke a plurality of messages than it does for users to simply point at the printer icon to display the single tool tip icon) (Oran: column 4, lines 2-38 and Figure 5).

Referring to claims 16 and 19, Oran and Wilson teach all of the limitations as applied to claims 1, 12 and 17 above. Specifically, Oran and Wilson teach the display of messages (a notification displayed as a graphical object in the notification area; for example, when an electronic mail message has arrived, an email message indicator is displayed on the taskbar notification area) (Oran: column 1, lines 34-41, column 5, lines 37-45 and Figure 3). However, Oran and Wilson fail to explicitly teach messages relating to a fault-causing event. Shimizu teach the display of indications for monitored system components (Shimizu: column 3, lines 3-31) similar to that of Oran and Wilson. In addition, Shimizu further teach displaying indications relating to a device failure (displaying blinking and colored indicators to symbolize a critical failure or a disconnection of a device) (Shimizu: column 12, lines 36-44). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art having the teachings of Oran, Wilson and Shimizu before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the interface for displaying messages taught by Oran and Wilson to include the displaying of an indication due the failure of a device of Shimizu. One would have been motivated to make such a combination in order to efficiently monitor the statuses of a plurality of system components, allowing the user to be able to clearly see and comprehend when an event or failure has occurred, so they can respond to the problem in a timely fashion.

Referring to claim 20, Oran and Wilson teach all of the limitations as applied to claims 17 and 18 above. Specifically, Oran and Wilson teach viewing and assessing the nature of a message (for example, users can view and assess the printer message associated with the printer icon by selecting the printer icon displayed on the taskbar notification area) (Oran: column 4, lines 19-38 and Figure 5). However, Oran and

Wilson fail to explicitly teach the messages relates to fault-causing messages. Shimizu et al. teach the display of indications for monitored system components (Shimizu: column 3, lines 3-31) similar to that of Oran and Wilson. In addition, Shimizu further teach displaying indications relating to a device failure (displaying blinking and colored indicators to symbolize a critical failure or a disconnection of a device) (Shimizu: column 12, lines 36-44). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art having the teachings of Oran, Wilson and Shimizu before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the viewing and assessing of the nature of a displayed message taught by Oran and Wilson to include the displaying of an indication due a failure of a device of Shimizu. One would have been motivated to make such a combination in order to efficiently monitor the statuses of a plurality of system components, allowing the user to be able to clearly see and comprehend when an event or failure has occurred, so they can respond to the problem in a timely fashion.

6. Claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oran et al. U.S. Patent 5,617,526 (hereinafter "Oran"), Wilson U.S. Patent 6,002,398 and Shimizu et al. U.S. Patent 5,689,416 (hereinafter "Shimizu"), as applied to claims 17, 18 and 20 above, and Moon et al. U.S. Patent 6,385,662 (hereinafter "Moon").

Referring to claim 23, Oran, Wilson and Shimizu teach all of the limitations as applied to claims 17, 18 and 20 above. Specifically, Oran, Wilson and Shimizu teach displaying messages in pop-up windows (in response to the mouse being positioned on the icon, a tool tip box pops up on the display) (Oran: column 4, lines 2-10 and Figure 4) and the display of fault causing events (displaying blinking and colored indicators to

symbolize a critical failure or a disconnection of a device) (Shimizu: column 12, lines 36-44). However, Oran, Wilson and Shimizu fail to explicitly teach displaying a list of messages presented in the order of their occurrence. Moon teach the display of indications (displaying notifications) (Moon: column 3, lines 1-13, column 4, lines 56-63 and further shown in Figure 1) similar to that of Oran, Wilson and Shimizu. In addition, Moon further teaches displaying a list of messages presented in the order of their occurrence (as messages are ignored by the user, they are added to the history file with the previously ignored messages; upon user selection, the list of messages in the history file event log is displayed along with their time information) (Moon: column 4, lines 55 – column 5, lines 47). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Oran, Wilson, Shimizu and Moon before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the pop-up display of fault-causing messages taught by Oran, Wilson and Shimizu to include the display of a list of messages in the order of their occurrence of Moon. One would have been motivated to make such a combination in order to allow users to put off viewing status messages until a time more convenient for them, letting users work at their own pace. Furthermore, users will be able to see when events occurred, therefore allowing them to see the interdependent relationships between events, i.e. if certain events caused later occurring events, allowing users to respond to the messages or problems in the appropriate order.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments filed 17 January 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive:

8. The applicant argues that Wilson does not teach the dynamic feature of temporarily superimposing a message indicator on a tab upon the occurrence of an event, i.e. when triggered by an automation system message. However, the examiner respectfully asserts that Oran is relied upon for teaching the dynamic feature. Oran teaches that message indicators such as the email indictor can be displayed on a specified area of the graphical user interface when triggered by the occurrence of an event such as the arrival of a new or unread email message (see column 1, lines 34-41, column 5, lines 37-45 and Figure 3); furthermore, Oran teaches that when the user looks at the email message, the displayed email indicator disappears (see column 4, lines 46-50); therefore, Oran teaches the ability to temporarily display the email indicator when triggered by unread email. Although Oran does not explicitly teach that the peripheral region upon which the email indictor is displayed is an indicator tab, Wilson solves this deficiency by teaching the ability to display indicators on tabs (see Figure 3). Therefore, the examiner respectfully argues that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, that Oran's teaching of temporarily displaying indicators on the peripheral region of the graphical user interface when triggered by an event can be applied to Wilson's teaching of the ability to display message indicators on tabs of the GUI, in order to obtain an interface that temporarily displays message indicators on tabs when triggered by an event.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ting Zhou whose telephone number is (571) 272-4058. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 7:00 am - 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached at (571) 272-4048. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TZ

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PRIMARY EXAMINER